IN THE CLAIMS

18. (Previously presented) A method for producing a domain name, wherein the domain name resides in an existing hierarchy depending from a root commonly known as a "dot" root, wherein the domain name includes only symbols from a set of allowed symbols, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a noncompliant domain name, wherein the noncompliant domain name includes at least one symbol that is not included in the set of allowed symbols;

(b) converting the noncompliant domain name into a format that includes only symbols from the set of allowed symbols; and

(c) automatically appending a string to the converted noncompliant domain name to produce the domain name, wherein the string includes information for resolving the domain name, wherein the domain name resides under the dot root and wherein steps (a)-(c) are performed by a user device.

19. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending a predetermined string to the converted ~~second~~ noncompliant domain name to produce the domain name.

20. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending at least one domain level to the converted ~~second~~ noncompliant domain name to produce the domain name.

21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the set of allowed symbols comprises the uppercase letters A-Z, the lowercase letters a-z, and the hyphen/minus sign.

22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the set of allowed symbols comprises symbols specified in RFC 1035.

23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, further comprising the step of

(d) transmitting the domain name to a domain name server so that the domain name server can provide information corresponding to the domain name.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein step (d) comprises transmitting the domain name to the domain name server so that the domain name server can provide an Internet protocol number corresponding to the domain name.

25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of

(e) transmitting at least a portion of the domain name to a root server so that the root server can provide information corresponding to the domain name.

26. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein step (e) comprises transmitting the portion of the domain name to the root server so that the root server can provide an Internet protocol number corresponding to the domain name.

27. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, further comprising the step of

(d) transmitting at least a portion of the domain name to a domain name server so that the domain name server can provide information corresponding to the domain name.

28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein step (a) is transparent to a user.

29. (Currently amended) A method for producing a domain name, wherein the domain name resides in an existing hierarchy depending from a root commonly known as a "dot" root, wherein the domain name is in a first format, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a plurality of symbols, wherein the plurality of symbols are in a second format, and wherein the second format is different from the first format;

(b) converting the plurality of symbols into a second plurality of symbols, wherein the second plurality of symbols are in the first format; and

(c) automatically appending a string to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name, wherein the string includes information for resolving the domain name, wherein the domain name resides under the dot root and wherein steps (a)-(c) are performed by a user device.

30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending a predetermined string to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending at least one domain level to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein the first format includes symbols comprising the uppercase letters A-Z, the lowercase letters a-z, and the hyphen/minus sign.

33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein the first format includes symbols allowed by RFC 1035 and the second format includes symbols that are not allowed by RFC 1035.

34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, further comprising the step of

(d) transmitting the domain name to a domain name server so that the domain name server can provide information corresponding to the domain name.

35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, wherein step (d) comprises transmitting the domain name to the domain name server so that the domain name server can provide an Internet protocol number corresponding to the domain name.

36. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 34, further comprising the step of

(e) transmitting a portion of the domain name to a root server so that the root server can provide information corresponding to the domain name.

37. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 36, wherein step (e) comprises transmitting the portion of the domain name to the root server so that the root server can provide an Internet protocol number corresponding to the domain name.

38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, further comprising the step of

(e) transmitting at least a portion of the domain name to a domain name server so that the domain name server can provide information corresponding to the domain name.

39. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein step (a) is transparent to a user.

40. (Previously presented) A domain name that includes only symbols from a set of allowed symbols, wherein the domain name resides in an existing hierarchy depending from a root commonly known as a "dot" root, wherein the domain name is produced from the method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a noncompliant domain name, wherein the noncompliant domain name includes at least one symbol that is not included in the set of allowed symbols;

(b) converting the second domain name into a format that includes only symbols from the set of allowed symbols; and

(c) automatically appending a string to the converted second domain name to produce the domain name, wherein the string includes information for resolving the domain name, wherein the domain name resides under the dot root and wherein steps (a)-(c) are performed by a user device.

41. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 40, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending a predetermined string to the converted ~~second~~ noncompliant domain name to produce the domain name.

42. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 40, wherein step (c) comprises automatically appending at least one domain level to the converted ~~second~~ noncompliant domain name to produce the domain name.

43. (Previously presented) A method for providing information that corresponds to a domain name, wherein the domain name resides in an existing hierarchy depending from a root commonly known as a "dot" root, wherein the domain name includes only symbols from a set of allowed symbols, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving the domain name, wherein the domain was produced by

i. obtaining a noncompliant domain name, wherein the noncompliant domain name includes at least one symbol that is not included in the set of allowed symbols;

ii. converting the noncompliant domain name into a format that includes only symbols from the set of allowed symbols; and

iii. automatically appending a string to the converted noncompliant domain name to produce the domain name, wherein the string includes information for resolving the domain name, wherein the domain name resides under the dot root; and

(b) submitting the domain name to a database so that the information can be provided, wherein steps (a)-(b) are performed by a user device.

44. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 43, wherein

(a) the ~~seeond~~ noncompliant domain name includes at least three domain levels; and

(b) the domain name includes only two domain levels.

45. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 43, wherein the information comprises an Internet protocol number.

46. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 43, wherein step (a)(i) is transparent to a user.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Previously presented) A method for resolving a domain name, wherein the domain name resides in an existing hierarchy depending from a root commonly known as a "dot" root, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a first plurality of symbols by a first software program, wherein the first plurality of symbols are in a first format;

(b) transmitting the first plurality of symbols from the first software program to a second software program, wherein the second software program includes instructions for

i. converting the first plurality of symbols into a second plurality of symbols, wherein the second plurality of symbols are in a second format, wherein the first format is different from the second format, and

ii. automatically appending a string to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name, wherein the string includes information for resolving the domain name wherein the domain name resides under the dot root; and

(c) transmitting the domain name from the second software program to a third software program, wherein the third software program includes instructions for

i. transmitting the domain name to a server; and

ii. receiving from the server in response thereto information corresponding to the domain name, wherein steps (a)-(c) are performed by a user device.

54. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 53, wherein step (b)(ii) comprises automatically appending at least one domain level to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name.

55. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 53, wherein step (c)(ii) comprises receiving from the server in response to the transmission of the domain name an Internet protocol number corresponding to the domain name.

56. (Previously presented) A device for producing a domain name, wherein the domain name resides in an existing hierarchy depending from a root commonly known as a "dot" root, wherein the device comprises a memory having instructions stored therein for:

(a) obtaining a first plurality of symbols, wherein the first plurality of symbols are in a first format;

(b) converting the first plurality of symbols into a second plurality of symbols, wherein the second plurality of symbols are in a second format, wherein the second format is different from the first format; and

(c) automatically appending a string to the second plurality of symbols to produce the domain name, wherein the string includes information for resolving the domain name, wherein the domain name resides under the dot root and wherein steps (a)-(c) are performed by a user device.

57. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 56, wherein the second format specifies only symbols from a set of allowed symbols and the first format specifies at least one symbol that is not included in the set of allowed symbols.

58. (Previously presented) The device of claim 56, wherein the string comprises at least one domain level.

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Cancelled)

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Cancelled)

67. (Cancelled)

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Cancelled)

70. (Previously presented) A method for producing a domain name, wherein the domain name resides in an existing hierarchy depending from a root commonly known as a "dot" root, wherein the domain name includes only symbols from a set of allowed symbols, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a noncompliant domain name, wherein the noncompliant domain name includes at least one symbol that is not included in the set of allowed symbols;

(b) converting the noncompliant domain name into a format that includes only symbols from the set of allowed symbols; and

(c) automatically appending at least one symbol from the set of allowed symbols to the converted noncompliant domain name to produce the domain name,

wherein the domain name resides under the dot root and wherein steps (a)-(c) are performed by a user device.

71. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, wherein the appended at least one symbol is a redirector string.

72. (Previously presented) A method for producing a domain name, wherein the domain name resides in an existing hierarchy depending from a root commonly known as a "dot" root, wherein the domain name includes a compliant top level domain, wherein the compliant top level domain includes only symbols from a set of allowed symbols, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a noncompliant domain name, wherein the noncompliant domain name includes a top level domain, wherein the top level domain includes at least one symbol that is not included in the set of allowed symbols;

(b) converting the top level domain into a format that includes only symbols from the set of allowed symbols; and

(c) automatically appending at least one symbol from the set of allowed symbols to the converted top level domain to produce the compliant top level domain,

wherein the domain name resides under the dot root and wherein steps (a)-(c) are performed by a user device.

73. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 72, wherein the compliant top level domain is directly under the common root.

74. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 73, wherein the compliant top level domain has a single domain level.

75. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 74, wherein the appended at least one symbol is obtained from a predetermined string.

76. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 73, wherein the common root is the dot root.

77. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 72, wherein the appended at least one symbol is a redirector string.

78. (Previously presented) A method for producing a compliant domain name, wherein the domain name resides in an existing hierarchy depending from a root commonly known as a "dot" root, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a noncompliant domain name located under a root;

(b) converting the noncompliant domain name into a compliant format;

(c) automatically attaching at least one compliant character to the converted noncompliant domain name to produce the compliant domain name, wherein the step of attaching is performed by a user device without user intervention; and

(d) transmitting the compliant domain name to a server configured for operation under the dot root, wherein steps (a)-(d) are performed by a user device.

~~80.~~79. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 78~~-79~~, wherein the server comprises a root server.

~~81.~~80. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 78~~79~~, wherein the server comprises a name server.

~~82.~~81. (Previously presented) A software program for producing compliant domain names, wherein the software comprises instructions for performing the following steps:

(a) converting a first noncompliant domain name into a compliant format,

(b) automatically appending at least one symbol from an allowed set of symbols to the converted first noncompliant domain name to produce a first compliant domain name, wherein the first compliant domain name has a first top level domain associated therewith,

(c) converting a second noncompliant domain name into a compliant format,

(d) automatically appending at least one symbol from the allowed set of symbols to the converted second noncompliant domain name to produce a second compliant domain name, wherein the second compliant domain name has a second top level domain associated therewith, wherein the first top level domain differs from the second top level domain, wherein steps (a)-(d) are performed by a user device.

~~83.~~82. (Currently amended) The software program of Claim ~~81~~82, wherein the compliant domain names reside in an existing hierarchy depending from a root commonly known as a "dot" root, and wherein the first and second top level domains each reside under the dot root.

~~84.~~83. (Previously presented) he method of Claim 18, wherein the string is a redirector string.

~~85.~~84. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein the string is a redirector string.

~~86.~~85. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 40, wherein the string is a redirector string.

~~87.~~86. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 43, wherein the string is a redirector string.

~~88.~~87. (Cancelled)

~~89.~~88. (Cancelled)

~~90.~~89. (Cancelled)

~~91.~~90. (Cancelled)

~~92.~~91. (Cancelled)

~~93.~~92. (Cancelled)